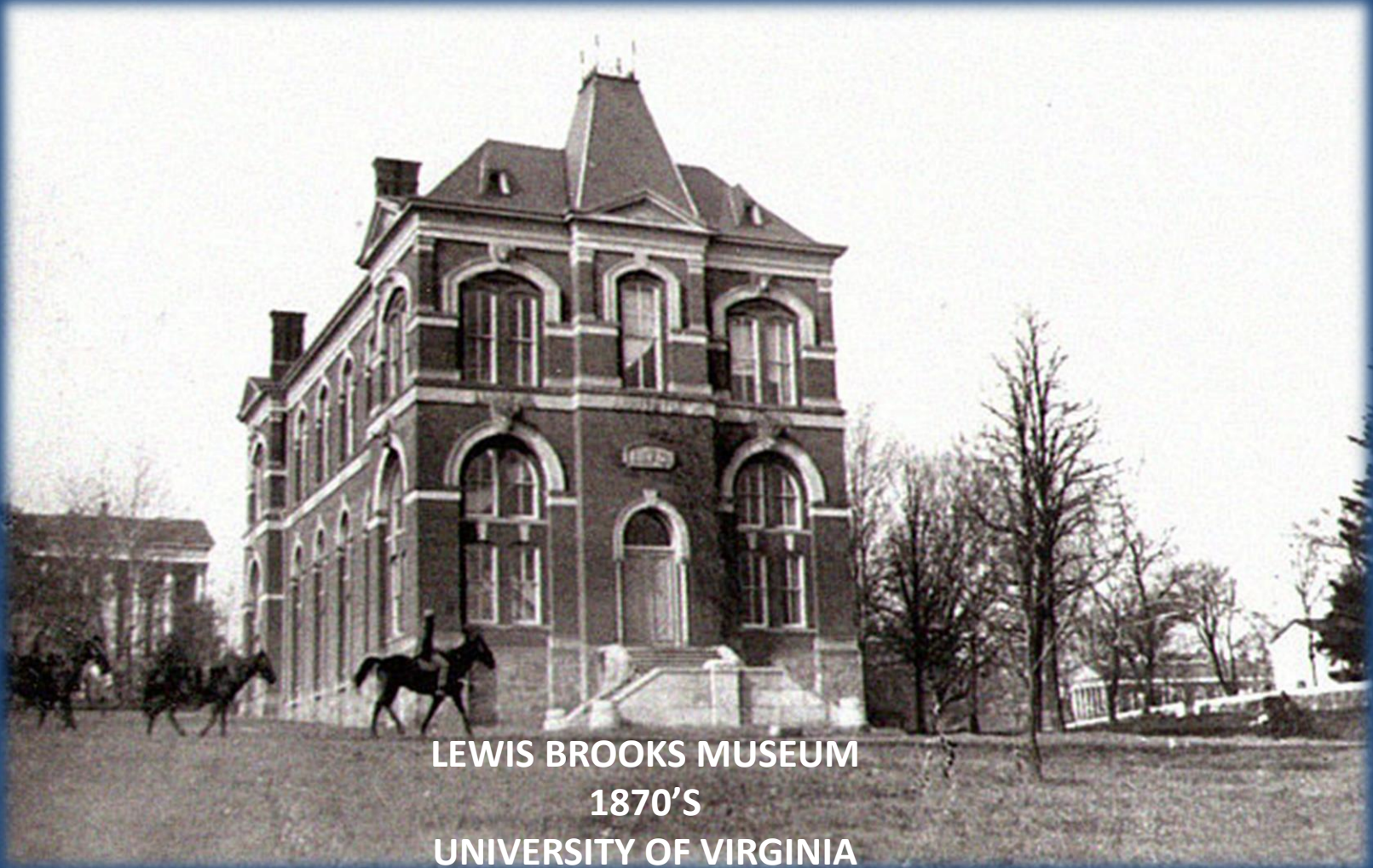


**SOME NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF
THE BROOKS AND OTHER
GEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF MINES, MINERALS,
AND ENERGY (D.M.M.E.)
IN CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA**

*Presented by
Rudolph J. Bland, Jr.*

2018

EARLY HISTORY



LEWIS BROOKS MUSEUM
1870'S
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

- The building was designed by New York architect, John R. Thomas.
- Lewis Brooks (1794 – 1877) was the primary benefactor with a gift to the University of Virginia in the amount of \$66,150.00.
- Henry Ward, known as “the museum builder”, was responsible for amassing the seed collection for the museum.



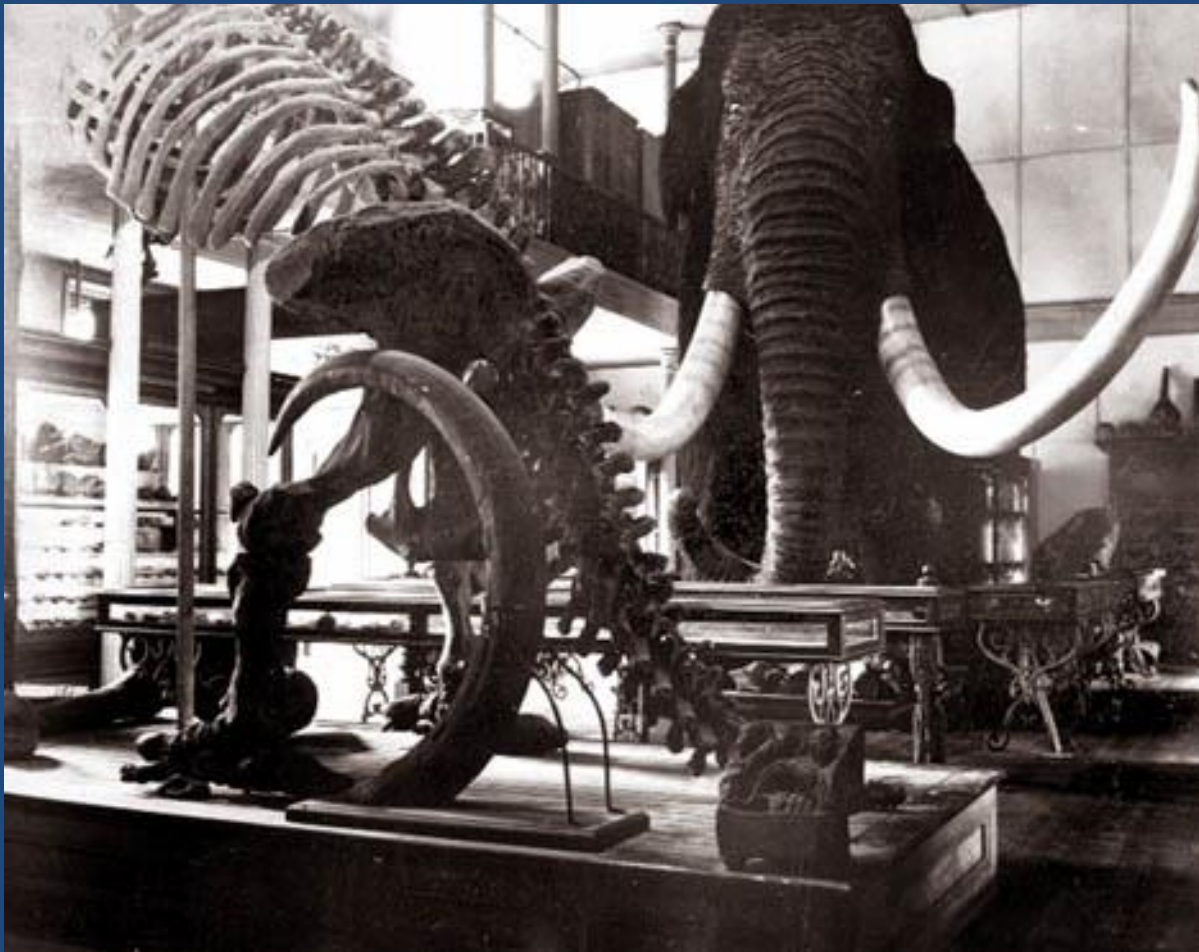
Henry Ward



Henry Ward & Buffalo Bill Cody

There are no pictures of Lewis Brooks

Unfortunately he did not live to see the opening of the museum.



View of the mastodon and dinosaur in the main hall.

THE BROOKS MUSEUM

The Museum officially opened on June 27, 1878.

**By August there were so many visitors that it became necessary
to hire a janitor.**

In 1948 the mastodon and dinosaur were disposed of.

Both of them were made of plaster.

The hair of the mammoth was Pampas grass.

**From then on the official use of the building as a museum had
come to an end making way for class rooms.**

**Much of the cabinetry remained housing the minerals, rocks,
and fossils.**

THE EARLY 1960'S



In January 1961 Rudy Bland was hired through a private grant to catalog and clean the rock and mineral collections housed in the museum. The grant lasted for two and a half years.



My supervisor for the project
was
Dr. Richard S. Mitchell, Geology
Professor at
UVA.

INTERUM HISTORY FROM 1963 UNTIL 2010

From 1963 until 2010, the bulk of the Brooks collections was moved several times.

At one point the collections were moved to Clark Hall at UVA.

These collections were at one time housed in a barn where they were exposed to deterioration and mice.

Finally in 2010 the majority of the collection was moved to the Division of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (D.M.M.E.) IN Charlottesville, VA.

REVITALIZATION

In 2011 Rudy Bland was hired through a U.S.G.S grant to sort, re-label, and digitize the catalogs.



It was like working with an elephant in a broom closet.

Most of the Virginia specimens were in white cabinets.

Any of the Virginia pieces not in drawers were added later.



1 of 6 cabinets



2 drawers

ONE OF SEVERAL WOODEN CABINETS

#15
MB3249 - MB3281



ONE OF SEVERAL MAP CABINETS





Many of the specimens came in wooden boxes.
Some of these boxes are now being used again.

DISPLAYS AT D.M.M.E.



Display of Original Brooks Specimens



Mineral Identification





Mineral Resources of Virginia

Arranged by
Physiographic
Provinces



**Large Calcite Cluster
Staunton, VA**



Fossils



Calcite crystals
Staunton, Augusta Co., VA



Specimens from the D.M.M.E. Repositories



Thomas L. Watson Exhibit



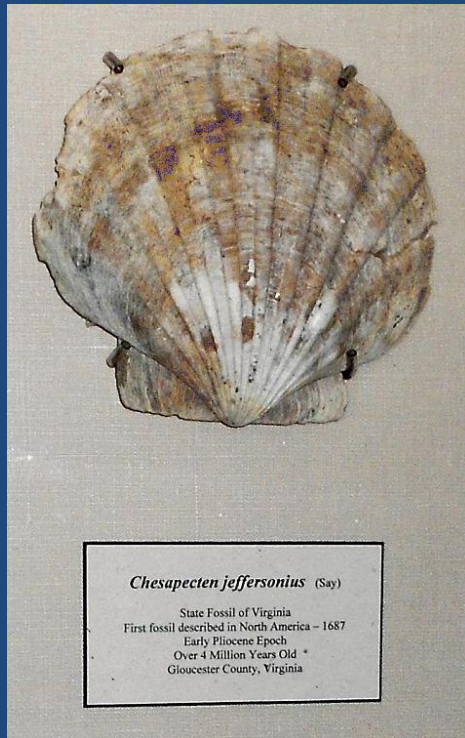
Virginia Minerals



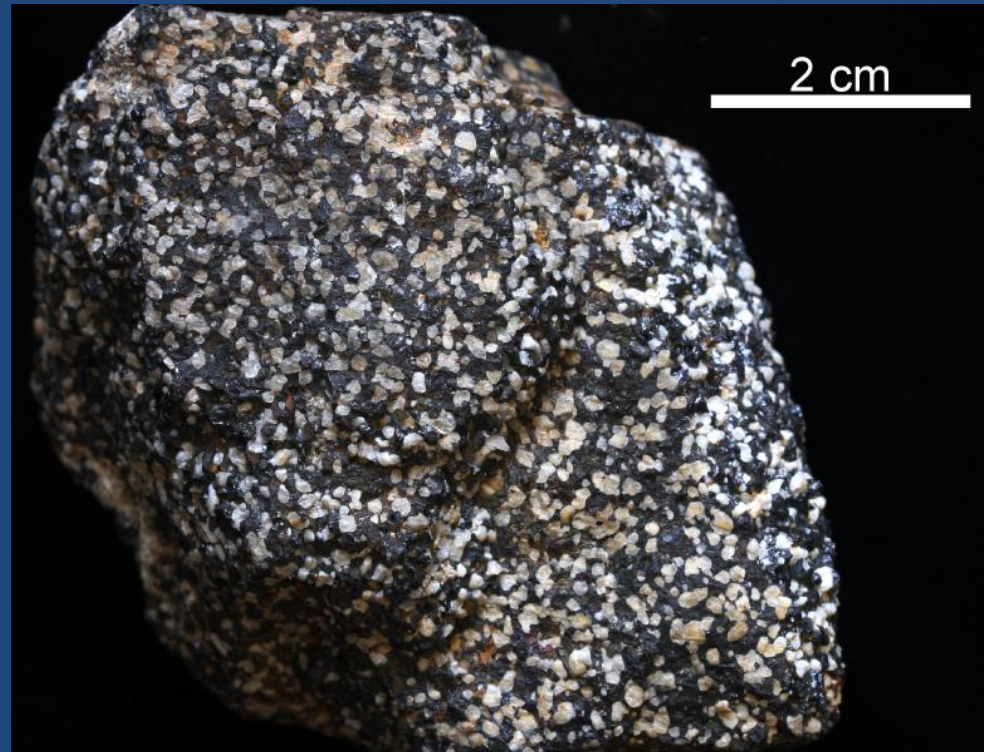
MINERAL RESOURCES OF ALBEMARLE COUNTY



**Ore Minerals
And Some of Their Uses**



VIRGINIA STATE FOSSIL
*Chesapeake
jeffersonius (Say)*



VIRGINIA STATE ROCK
Nelsonite

SOME OF THE SPECIMENS IN THE COLLECTION



AMETHYST QUARTZ
 SiO_2
ASH LAWN, VIRGINIA



VA.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

CAT. NO. V815

NAME Calcite xls with
Amazonite

LOCALITY Rutherford Mine,
Amelia Co., Va.

SOURCE _____ DATE _____

DANA: 270 M-110



UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

CAT. NO. VS18

NAME Calcite crystals (large group)

LOCALITY Belmont Quarry, Staunton, Augusta Co., Va.

SOURCE DATE

MANA1270 M-110

Va.



13.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

Va.

V845

CAT. NO.

NAME

Twinned Calcite xls in
Vug in limestone

LOCALITY

Lone Jack Quarry,
Glasgow, Va.

SOURCE

R.S. Mitchell

DATE

4-26-62

Dana: 270



UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

VA.

V 2686_D

CAT. NO.

NAME TOURMALINE in
MUSCOVITE

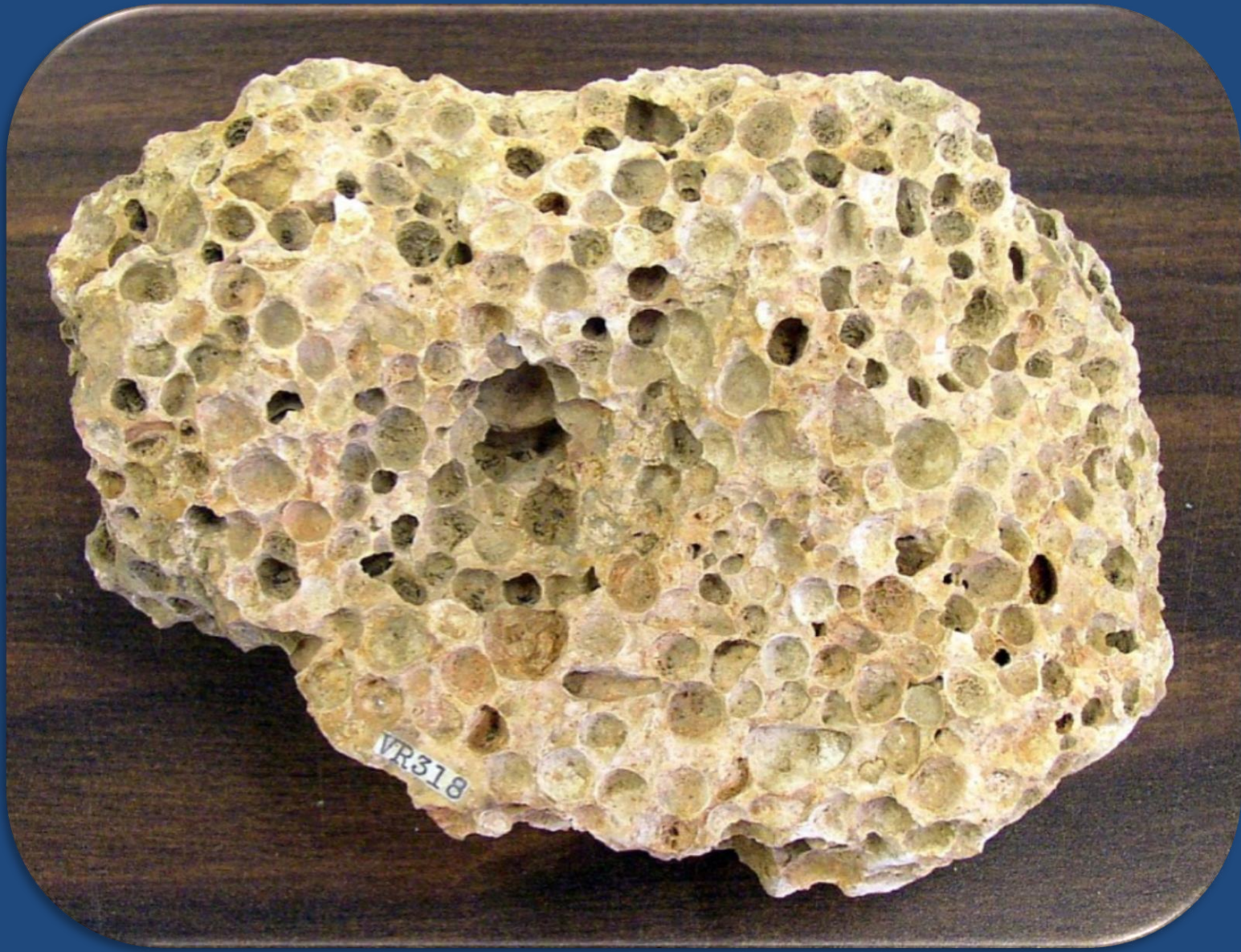
LOCALITY MINE #22, Chestnut Mt.,
FRANKLIN Co., VA.

SOURCE

DATE

DANA 426

M-110



Bauxite – Six Mile Bridge, Campbell Co., VA



Size: 4x9 inches

Albite variety Cleavelandite xls
Rutherford Mine, Amelia Co., VA



Vivianite xls
Richmond, VA

SOURCES OF SOME OF THE DONORS



Henry Ward (1834-1906)

Henry Ward was the founder of Ward's Natural Science Establishment in New York and provider of the core of the mineral, rock, and fossil specimens for the Lewis Brooks Museum at the University of Virginia.

Most of the specimens were mounted on wood blocks with an attached label with the original number and a corresponding number glued to the specimen.

Over the years (dating from the 1870's) many of the numbers on the specimens have turned black with age.



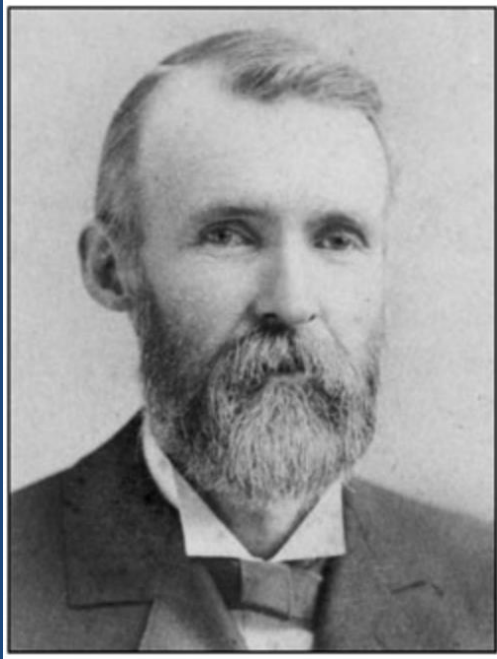
Thomas Leonard Watson (1871-1924)

Thomas Watson contributed many specimens to the collection. Much of this work was done on horseback.

During my work at UVA in the 1960's, I ran across a monthly bill for his horse.

I am afraid that it is now lost in the shuffling around of the collection over the years.

Pencil sketch was drawn by Christine Schmiel who was commissioned by the late Dr. Richard S. Mitchell, Professor of Geology, University of Virginia, (1956-1988).



Albert E. Foote (1846-1895)

Albert Foote, a mineral dealer and founder of the Foote Mineral Company, supplied a number of specimens to the University of Virginia Brooks Museum in the 1890's.

Many of the Foote specimens have an octagonal label glued to the sample. I preserved these labels in the 1960's by coating them with Tester's clear airplane dope.



Sample Foote Specimen



George Letchworth English (1864-1944)

George English was a mineral dealer and author of the book, *Getting Acquainted with Minerals*.

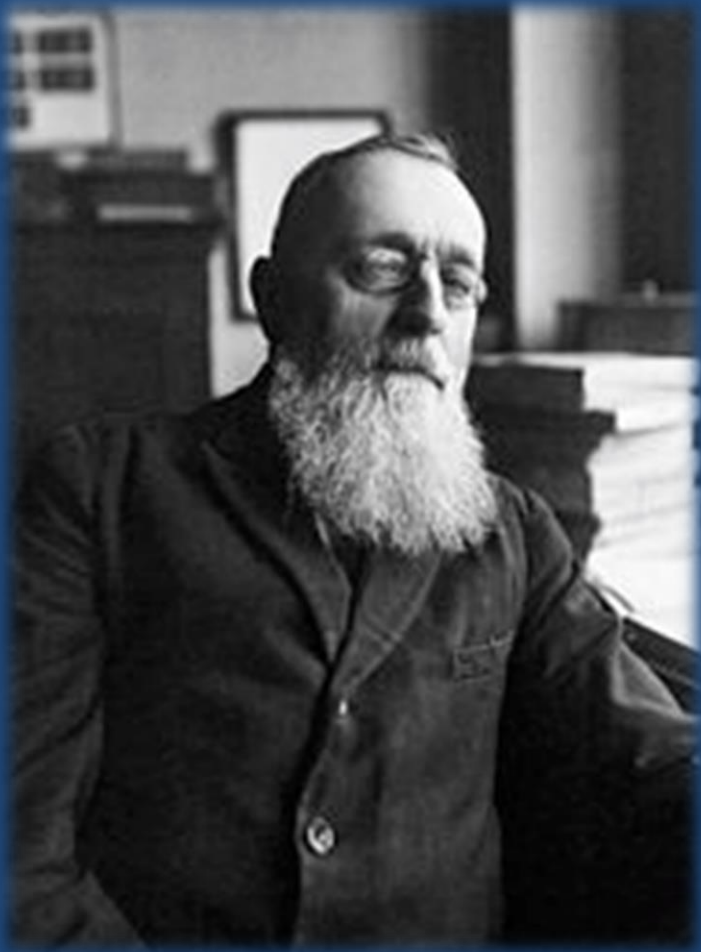
The specimens from this collection are easily recognized by the numbers being painted on a blue enamel patch. There are both rock and mineral specimens in this collection.



Dr. Frederick Krantz (1859-1926)

Krantz was the proprietor of Rheinisches Mineralien-Kontor, Bonn, considered to be the oldest mineral dealership in the world. Dr. Krantz ran the business from 1886 until his death in 1926. The firm is still in business today.

There are many of his specimens in this collection.



Antoine Francois Lacroix (1863-1948)

This is a small collection consisting of rocks from France and Madagascar.



Joseph K. Roberts (1889-1966)

Dr. Roberts was a professor at the University of Virginia prior to 1960.

A number of specimens in the collection bears his name as donor.

Dr. Richard S. Mitchell (1929-1989)



Dick Mitchell was a professor at the University of Virginia from the 1950's until his death in 1989. Much of his research collection is represented in the collection.

Much of Mitchell's material was identified using Powder Defraction X-ray.

Although the specimen labels contain x-ray numbers, his x-ray data files are missing.



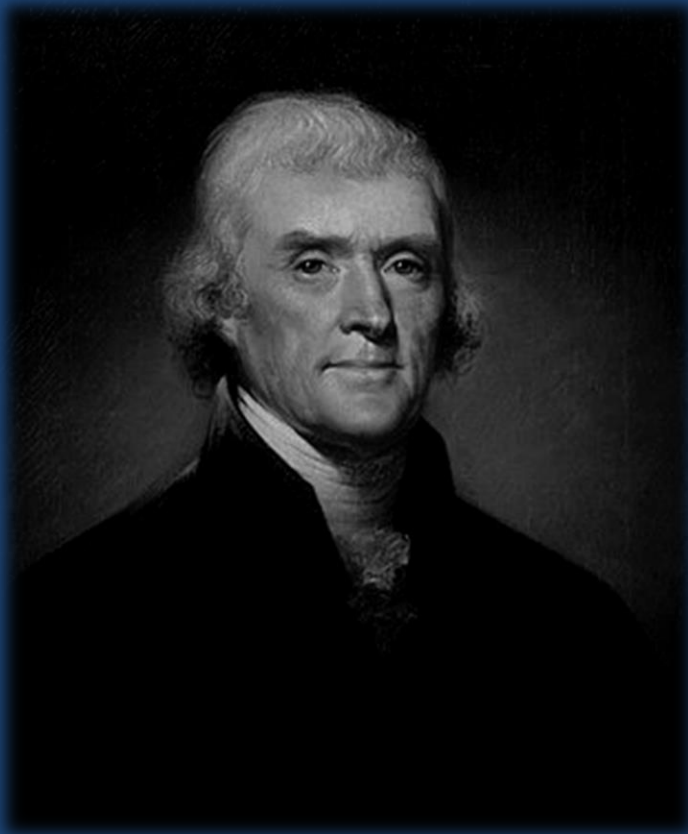
**Rudy with some of his
private collection**

Rudolph J. Bland, Jr. (1939-)

During the early 1960's I took on the task of cataloging the rock and mineral section of the collection, which at that time was housed in the Lewis Brooks Museum.

Many specimens dating from the 1960's to the 1980's bear my name as donor.

THE THOMAS JEFFERSON COLLECTION



Thomas Jefferson (1743 – 1826)

There is some debate as to the whereabouts of the Thomas Jefferson collection.

This collection may be housed in Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA (*needs verification*).

There is also a possibility that much of it may have been lost in a fire at the old chemistry building on the campus of UVA, since many mineral specimens were in that building when it burned. (*Personal communication from Dr. Mitchell*)

THE FOSSIL COLLECTION

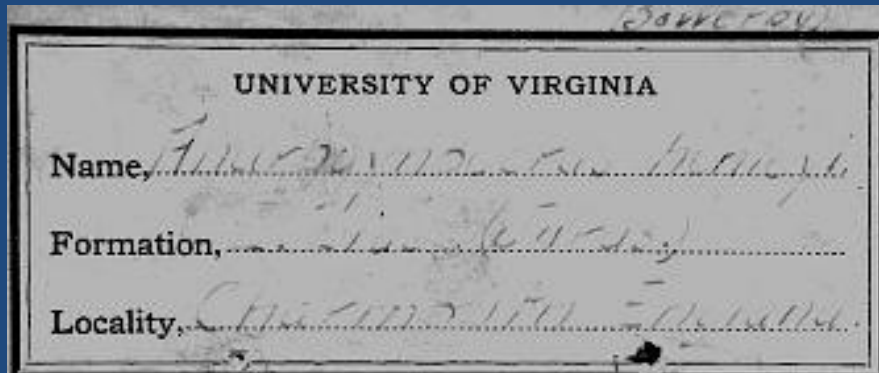
At this time some work is being done on the large collection of fossils.

Mr. Scott Steele recently did some volunteer work identifying a number of the Brooks items and preparing a spread sheet.

As with the minerals and rocks, the Virginia fossils will come first. Some of the labels have to be scanned* to bring out the wording.

Catalog spread sheets are being prepared for each of three categories:

- Brooks (BRF0001), Misc. Brooks (MBF 0001), and Virginia Fossils (VF0001).



UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Name, *Fossil from the ...*

Formation, *...*

Locality, *...*

*This is an example of one of the labels I am dealing with.



Group Tour

**NOT THE END,
BUT A NEW
BEGINNING!**



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Energy**

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